

Montana Invasive Species Bulletin

Brought to you by the Montana Invasive Species Advisory Council
www.dnrc.mt.gov/misc

The Invasive Species Bulletin provides you with all the latest news on invasive species in Montana and the region. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, contributions, questions, corrections, or comments.

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Montana News

Newly Established Upper Columbia Conservation Commission Convenes

The Upper Columbia Conservation Commission (UC3) met for the first time Oct. 4 to form the organization and identify priorities for the group to tackle over the next two years. The 2017 Legislature established the UC3 to enhance early detection and rapid response efforts through increased coordination with water management agencies within the Columbia River Basin in Montana, as well as with provincial and state partners in the basin. Information about the UC3 and its meeting scheduled can be found [here](#).

[New Group Aims to Harmonize Invasive Mussel Response \(Montana Public Radio\)](#)

2018 Request for Proposals--aquatic invasive species and the Big Sky Watershed Corps

Montana Watershed Coordination Council and Garfield Conservation District have partnered to provide funding for watershed groups and conservation districts to host 2018 Big Sky Watershed Corps members for implementing aquatic invasive species activities. Local organizations are key to addressing this enormous threat, and we are excited to support their efforts through the Big Sky Watershed Corps Program. [Click here for more information and to review the RFP.](#)

No new signs of mussel larvae in state, official says (Bozeman Daily Chronicle)

No new positive hits were found in the year after invasive mussel larvae were found for the first time in Montana, a state official said Monday.

Paul Sihler, chief of staff for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, told members of the Montana Legislature's Water Policy Interim Committee that the agency hasn't found larvae in any new waterbodies. Additionally, no adult mussels were found in either of the reservoirs where larvae were found in 2016...[read more](#)

Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Management Workshop

Purpose: A forum to engage scientists, resource managers, conservation groups and other stakeholders in exploring strategies to eliminate salt cedar and Russian olive from Montana waterways.

Conference Date: Wednesday, Oct. 25 (Meeting from 1-5) and Thursday, Oct. 26 (Meeting from 8-noon).

Conference Location: Montana Electric Co-op Building, [501 Bay Drive, Great Falls, MT 59401](#).

Registration: \$20/person, \$10/student.

For more information and to register for this workshop, click [HERE](#)

Pilot program to protect Flathead Basin from mussels facing challenges (Missoulian)

POLSON — A legislatively mandated pilot program designed to enhance protection from invasive mussels in the Flathead Basin is facing challenges on two fronts.

As part of HB 622, the Legislature gave the Flathead Basin Commission authority to establish and manage the Upper Columbia pilot program. The program would add more certification stations, track vessels that require decontamination, and add the use of automated inspection and detection devices...[read more](#)

Regional News

Regional AIS News

Visit the Aquatic Invasive Species Network at westernais.org for the latest AIS news in and around the region. (Thanks, Stephen)

Help Promote Firewood Awareness Month

October is the second annual Firewood Awareness Month, a partnership between Hungry Pests and Don't Move Firewood to raise public awareness about firewood movement as a forest pest and disease pathway. Each week of October is focused on a specific theme. The [Firewood Month Toolkit](#) has resources to help you promote firewood related messages during the month of October. Thank you for promoting smart firewood choices.

For more information visit: [Don't Move Firewood](#) and [Hungry Pests](#)

The Navajo Nation has a wild horse problem (High County News)

Up to 40,000 wild horses wander the Navajo Nation, roaming across 27,000 miles of deep canyons, rugged hills and huge mountains, according to aerial estimates from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In just five years, the population is expected to double. Already the feral horses compete with domestic animals, sheep or cattle, and wildlife for water and sparse vegetation. Yet a Navajo Nation oversight committee recently denied an \$800,000 funding request from the tribe's Fish and Wildlife Department to help reduce the horse population, leaving the nation with few alternatives...[read more](#)

Indigenous Nations' environmental stewardship in tackling invasive species (ScienceDaily)

As invasive species are threatening ecological habitats throughout the US and Canada, the role of Indigenous nations as environmental stewards has often been overlooked, according to a new study. The findings provide examples of the many ways Indigenous nations are adapting to invasive species, documenting their impact and implementing active response strategies based on an online survey of over 140 Indigenous respondents...[read more](#)

Other

October Weed Post (MSU Extension and the Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign)

The [October Weed Post](#) yellow and desert alyssum are the subjects of the October Weed Post. These two species were two of the most frequently submitted species to the Schutter Diagnostic Lab at MSU in 2017.

Next Montana Invasive Species Council (MISC) Meeting

November 30, 10-4

Montana DNRC Headquarters, Helena

For more information about MISC and to access archives of this e-newsletter go to: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cadd/MISC>